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**Reflection 3**

TOPIC:

The relevance of Action Research to both the student and teacher and its ties to the Mission Statement of the School of Education

In this final reflection, my task is to discuss the relevance of Action Research to both the student and the teacher. My purpose is also to discuss the role of action research as it relates to the mission statement of the school of education. In fulfilling this task, the ARP presentations of my colleagues will also play an important part in this discussion.

A wide range of topics were presented and discussed during the ARP presentations. The subject matter discussed in these topics include a comparison of methods of teaching,; the best time of the day to teach specific subjects; literacy instructions for the hearing impaired; the impact of a teacher’s sex on the students being taught, parental involvement, the needs of the ELL students and technology in teaching.

As I listened to and reflected on the review of literature presented by each action researcher, I was able to follow the trend of the presentation as a result of the facts being presented. Each person was able to cite the works of great theorists, philosophers, educators and researchers, many of whom had spend years observing children, experimenting with teaching/learning methods and discovering the best methods of imparting knowledge to the child. It is through the works written and presented by these scholars that each action researcher was able to develop and present a proposal which will facilitate a research which can effect change. The type of change we as action researchers are hoping to effect will be linked directly to both the children and the teachers.

The child’s ability to be able to master his environment and make a meaningful contribution to the society largely depends on the quality of formal education he/she has received. New and advanced technologies are being brokered by the youth in our society. Our country depends on their creative minds to foster positive changes, growth and development which are necessary for the successful movement into the next century. In today’s competitive world where technology has become a global challenge, it is necessary to ensure that our children‘s growth in education is enhanced by the use of the best possible methods, hence the need for Action Research. Action Research is geared towards identifying and finding solutions for problems in the education system which directly or indirectly affect the educational growth of the society’s children. By identifying and finding working solutions to these problems, the Action Researcher can then make the necessary recommendations which could then foster positive change and educational growth in our students.

By conducting these Action Research projects, we are not only enhancing our role as teachers but through our effort we can also be of benefit to other teachers, the community and society as a whole. Through action research, the teacher is able to highlight strengths and weaknesses that exist within basic methodology and the existing curriculum. Teachers as Action Researchers can even identify the specific areas in the society where the resolution of conflict can be advantageous to their achievement of a long term goal of improving the education of students and providing the society with effective leaders. Through Action Research, teachers can use relevant knowledge and information to forge collaboration among themselves, their students, parents and the rest of the education community. Action research empowers the teacher to use analysis, data and existing literature to posit views and put forward suggestions which will help to strengthen the curriculum and improve their methods of instruction. New teachers entering the teaching profession can also access training that provides enhanced methodology as a result of proposals made, using concrete evidence which an action research is capable of providing.

Our research began with identifying an existing problem which is related to the education of our students. Our next goal was to form a hypothesis which would then determine the method and possible outcome of our research in terms of finding a solution to the problem. The action research is critical for it helps to identify the problems existing within our education system. It is linked directly to the mission statement of the School of Education at Brooklyn College which emphasizes social justice, collaboration, critical self-evaluation and diversity. Social justice can help to eliminate the ills existing within the society, such as the inequalities existing within the fabric of our society. The scholarly work of theorists and researchers will serve as a foundation for the many decisions which we will have to make when considering out student’s socioeconomic status.

Our diverse population includes students from various ethnic and religious backgrounds. Therefore I believe that Action Research can provide us with the necessary information that we can use to foster respect and tolerance for the cultural and religious views of each individual. In this diverse society, we as Action Researchers can collaborate with social and religious groups in our society to forge a bond with parents and community leaders as we use our findings to help to improve the lives of our students. As we conduct our Action Research, we will be involved in the process of evaluating ourselves and each other. This was evident as we viewed the ARP presentations of our colleagues and ask necessary questions, and gave suggestions that will facilitate the improvement of each research. In so doing, we have attempted a very important section of our research that forces us to listen to each other and make critical self evaluation of our work which is necessary for the success of our Action Research.